

REMARKS

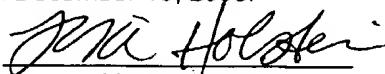
The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated August 15, 2003. Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-17, and indicated that claims 6, 13 and 18-28 were allowed.

In response, applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-17. However, to move the application toward allowance, applicants herein cancel claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-17 without prejudice.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned counsel of record if there are any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application.

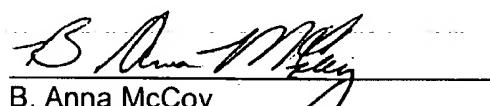
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 15, 2003.


Lisa Holstein

Respectfully submitted,

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